

Appendix L

BLM Special Unit Management Plans

BLM SPECIAL UNIT MANAGEMENT PLANS

Introduction

This Appendix includes maps and a description of the site-specific management for National Conservation Lands, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs), and Extended Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs) on BLM-managed lands.

National Conservation Lands are designated under Public Law 111-11, the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009, which included “public lands within the California Desert Conservation Area administered by the Bureau of Land Management for conservation purposes” as part of the National Landscape Conservation System.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) designations highlight areas where special management attention is needed to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, and scenic values, fish or wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes; or to protect human life and safety from natural hazards. ACECs are designated through Land Use Plans and Plan Amendments. Land use plans should identify goals, standards, and objectives for each area, as well as general management practices and uses.

Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) are administrative units where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness, especially as compared to other areas used for recreation. Land use plans should identify outcome-focused objectives, and supporting management actions and allowable use decisions to (1) sustain or enhance recreation objectives, (2) protect the desired recreation setting characteristics, and (3) constrain uses, including non-compatible recreation activities that are detrimental to meeting recreation or other critical resource objectives.

Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs) are administrative units that require specific management consideration in order to address recreation use, demand, or recreation and visitor services program investments. Land use plans should establish objectives and supporting management actions and allowable use decisions to facilitate the visitors’ ability to participate in outdoor recreation activities and protect the associated qualities and conditions. Non-compatible uses, including some recreation activities, may be restricted or constrained to achieve interdisciplinary objectives.

In some situations, areas may have more than one designation. Where ACECs are designated within National Conservation Lands, the ACECs provide special management direction where that management is necessary to achieve the overarching conservation goals for the nationally significant ecological, cultural, and scientific values of the National Conservation Lands. The National Conservation Lands incorporate the site-specific management objectives and use allocations of the underlying Special Unit Management Plans (Appendix L). In other situations, a recreation designation, such as a SRMA, may

overlap an ecological or cultural conservation designation, such as National Conservation Lands. Where two or more designations overlap, all applicable CMAs apply to activities within those areas. If there is a conflict between the CMAs, the more restrictive CMA would be applied, unless otherwise specified.

National Conservation Lands, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and Wildlife Allocations

The following tables and maps identify areas managed as National Conservation Lands or ACECs. They also identify whether all or a portion of a unit is included in National Conservation Lands, ACECs, or as Wildlife Allocations, and any applicable disturbance caps. These plans are organized alphabetically within the subregions. The interdisciplinary team evaluated each area to determine if special management was needed for the following resources and uses:

- Soil, water, air
- Vegetation – including special status species
- Fish and wildlife – including special status species
- Cultural resources
- Paleontology
- Trails and travel management
- Recreation
- Land tenure
- Rights of way
- Minerals (including locatable minerals, mineral materials, and non-energy leasables)
- Wild horses and burros.

Where special management is needed for a specific unit, it is identified in that unit's table. If the interdisciplinary team determined that for this area special management for a particular resource was not needed, the resource is not identified in a unit specific table. Subsequently, if special management is not identified for a specific resource or use, the LUPA wide and Ecological and Cultural Conservation Management Actions (CMAs) in Volume II will apply.

If a unit is designated as a Wildlife Allocation, the special management in the unit's table will not apply, and the BLM will manage the area using the plan-wide CMAs. A Wildlife Allocation identifies what species or what wildlife purpose (e.g. connectivity) for which the allocation is made. Approval of future actions by other activities (e.g. recreation development, mining, etc.) within a Wildlife Allocation area must demonstrate how the action does not preclude the designated wildlife purpose. For example, if an area is designated as a Wildlife Allocation for wildlife connectivity and a new mining claim is made in this zone, the NEPA for the mining claim must include a discussion of how approving the new mining claim does not significantly impair or preclude the wildlife connectivity. While

ACECs and NLCS designations may be accompanied by disturbance caps, disturbance caps will not apply to areas designated as only Wildlife Allocation.

Special Recreation Management Areas and Extensive Recreation Management Areas

The following special unit management plans and maps identify areas managed as Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) and Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs). These plans are organized alphabetically within the subregions. For each SRMA and ERMA, the management plan includes:

- A description of the area's objective statement, primary activities, experiences, and recreation benefits
- A recreation setting characteristics description
- Management actions and allowable uses.

If a SRMA or ERMA management plan is silent on a resource or use, the plan-wide CMAs will apply. If plan-wide CMAs and SRMA or ERMA management plans are inconsistent, the more site-specific management will apply

